



NEWS IN BRIEF

AEA advises BBC on Saharan dust – February 2008

Last week AEA was approached by the BBC for information on why there was Saharan dust falling on South Wales. Resident air quality expert Paul Willis gave an excellent interview which appeared on the BBC News website. Paul explained that the phenomenon was caused by a high pressure weather system sitting over Europe coinciding with a major sandstorm in the Sahara, carrying the dust more than 2,000 miles.

See the article at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/south_west/7206972.stm

AEA Shares in Nobel Peace Prize – November 2007

Four AEA experts, **John Watterson, Justin Goodwin, Keith Brown and Mike Woodfield**, have shared in the winning of a Nobel Peace Prize through their work with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

“This is an honour that goes to all the scientists and authors who have contributed to the work of the IPCC, which alone has resulted in enormous prestige for this organization and the remarkable effectiveness of the message that it contains” – said Mr. Rajendra Pachauri, the Chairman of the IPCC.

“It is the most significant recognition that the IPCC has received for providing policymakers with objective and balanced information about the causes and impacts of climate change and possible response measures” said Renate Christ, the Secretary of the IPCC.

The IPCC was created almost twenty years ago in response to growing concern about the risk of anthropogenic climate change. The General Assembly of the United Nations asked the two UN bodies most engaged in the issue, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, to set up this Panel to provide balanced, objective policy advice.

The IPCC assessments are based on peer-reviewed scientific and technical literature. The IPCC reports are written by teams of authors from all over the world who are recognised experts in their field. They represent relevant disciplines as well as differing scientific perspectives.

In total 2000 authors from across the world contribute to the IPCC reports. None of them are paid for their time.

The Nobel peace prize was awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change jointly with former US Vice-President Al Gore.

AEA submits evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry on Climate Change Levy – November 2007

AEA's **Robert Bell and John Huddleston** submitted written and oral evidence to the House of Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry into 'Reducing Carbon Emissions from UK business: The role of the Climate Change Levy and Agreements.'

AEA is an acknowledged leader in all aspects of climate change policy and implementation with unrivalled experience. In the 1980s and 1990s, it ran the Government's industrial energy efficiency programmes and has supported the Carbon Trust since its formation in 2000. The company helped Lord Marshall to form his recommendations in the report into "Economic Instruments and the Business Use of Energy" in 1998, which in part led to the Climate Change Levy and Agreement.

Most recently AEA has provided Defra with technical support and auditing services for Climate Change Agreements (CCAs) since 1999, helping to formulate both the structure and continuing operation of the agreements, including:

- development of the details of the agreement framework
- negotiation of both individual organisation and sector targets
- target period assessments and analysis
- auditing of sector associations and individual facilities to ensure accurate reporting.

AEA expertise showcased in the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Review

AEA's expertise was also highlighted in Chancellor Alistair Darling's Pre-Budget Report (PBR). AEA was an important source for the Public Sector Agreement to "Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change". Within the details of this PSA, AEA data sets and analysis are utilised to illustrate the Total UK greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and as an indicator of Greenhouse Gas and CO₂ intensity of the UK economy.

AEA leads two major Defra reports on Combined Heat and Power

AEA was the main contractor for two recent Defra reports examining the economic potential for combined heat and power (CHP) schemes. The projects were led by AEA's internationally renowned expert **Mahmoud Abu-Ebid**, suggested that increasing the UK's capacity for Combined Heat and Power generation should yield considerable environmental and economic benefits.

Published as part of the requirements of the EC Cogeneration Directive, the reports predict that over 10% of the UK's electricity will come from CHP generation by the end of 2010 and that CHP could supply 17% of the UK's total energy requirement.

CHP is a highly fuel-efficient process, which sees the simultaneous generation of heat and power in a single process. It produces greatly reduced levels of carbon dioxide emissions compared to the separate generation of heat and power e.g. via on-site boilers and fossil fuel power stations. As CHP is a process that can be applied to a variety of fuels and technologies, AEA believes it can play a crucial role in the UK's low carbon future.

AEA specialist makes key-note speeches on low emissions from coal and carbon capture and storage

Keith Burnard, one of AEA's knowledge leadership group and a specialist in carbon capture and storage, is presenting at a series of high profile events over the next month.

As part of Delegation visit from Russia, organised by UKTI, Keith will be presenting on 'Low emissions from coal'. Subsequently, he is speaking on 'Carbon Capture' at the inaugural European carbon capture & storage summit in London alongside the Energy Secretary, Malcolm Wicks, and Lord Oxburgh and on BERR-sponsored carbon capture and storage activities again in London at an event sponsored by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.